

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments set forth above prior to calculating the fee for, and prior to considering the patentability of the new application that is being filed concurrently herewith as a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/809,749 ("the '749 application").

The specification is amended to insert a cross-reference to the '749 application, which the instant application incorporates by reference and from which the instant application claims priority.

Claims 11-15 are cancelled herein without prejudice and without dedication of their subject matter to the public. Applicants reserve the right to seek patent protection for claims similar or identical to one, some or all of claims 11-15 in a related application. Claim 16 is cancelled herein as well, in view of the cancellation of claim 11 and in further view of the prosecution of the '749 application.

Also, some of the remaining claims of the instant application are amended herein to reflect amendments made during prosecution of the '749 application. Specifically, claims 3, 6 and 8 are amended herein to match the amendments made to those claims in Applicants' November 25, 2002 response to the August 28, 2002 office action in connection with the '749 application.

Applicants submit that claims 1-10 are patentable over the prior art, including the references (whether considered alone or in proper combination) that were made of record in the '749 application. For the Examiner's convenience, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, these references are cited on the Form PTO-1449 that is included with an Information Disclosure Statement, which is being submitted concurrently herewith for consideration with this new application filing.

Therefore, immediate consideration and allowance of claims 1-10 are respectfully requested.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance in advancing the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact him through the information given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Version of amendments with markings to indicate additions and deletions

Any additions are underlined; and any deletions are bracketed.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 3, 6 and 8 as follows:

3. (Amended) A conductive antioxidant paint according to claim 1, wherein said antioxidant material is a carbide or nitride of an element selected from the group consisting of B, Si, Ge, Sb, Ti, Sn, Al [and], Zr, a boron element [or] and a silicon element.

6. (Amended) A conductive antioxidant paint comprising a conductive material, an antioxidant material, a polymer emulsion and an inorganic colloid as a binder, and a transition metal, [the] and having a total content of alkali metal and/or alkali earth metal [being] of not more than 20% by weight based on the weight of the antioxidant material.

8. (Amended) A conductive antioxidant paint according to claim 6, wherein said antioxidant material is a carbide or nitride of an element selected from the group consisting of B, Si, Ge, Sb, Ti, Sn, Al [and], Zr, a boron element [or] and a silicon element.